

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2022

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

We are writing to you today in support of our essential workers across New York state. Throughout the pandemic these workers put their lives on the line, risking their health and wellness to keep our communities running and safe. However, after these praiseworthy commitments to duty, many of these same healthcare and utility workers are now facing termination under the misguided top-down government vaccine mandates instituted at the federal, state, and local levels. This threatens our communities' access to healthcare, reliable power and water, as well as other essential services. In the face of this threat, we ask that you do not enact any additional vaccine mandates and immediately take steps in New York to rollback existing mandates that may prevent these essential workers from doing their jobs.

Throughout the past few months, our offices have talked with multiple healthcare providers, utilities, and essential industries regarding how the government mandates enacted related to COVID-19 threaten their ability to provide essential services to our communities. One of the most important examples is the power sector, where government vaccine mandates threaten the employment of line workers and other essential employees. Some utilities so far have had fewer than half their line workers report being vaccinated.

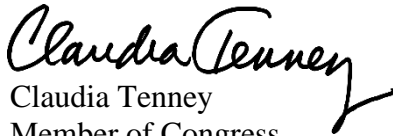
While thankfully the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the federal government's Occupational Safety and Health Administration's unlawful vaccine mandate, many of these workers could eventually fall under the stricter federal contractor mandate that does not even include a testing option. Even though the federal employee and federal contractor mandates have been stayed by the courts and are not currently being enforced, there is still the potential for these rules to come back into effect at a later date. This has the potential to cause many utilities in New York to fall below the staffing levels required in their minimum staffing agreements with the New York State Public Service Department. These staff shortages will weaken our essential services and risk leaving vast numbers of New Yorkers in the dark for extended periods of time whenever there is a large winter storm or other natural disaster. Power and services disruptions are not just an inconvenience but a life and death matter, especially in the winter months.

In response to these pressures, it is important that New York state act immediately to protect all our essential workers and ensure there is no disruption to utilities and services in our communities. This means New York should not be enacting any more COVID-19 vaccine mandates and should take steps to rollback existing ones. The state also needs to find ways to

help those who lost their jobs due to vaccine mandates get new employment or get their previous job back. No person should lose employment, income, or access to services and facilities because of this personal medical decision.

We look forward to hearing your proposals on how we can keep these brave and committed employees at work and on the job.


Sincerely,

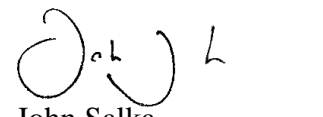

Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress

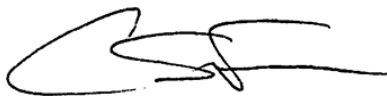

Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress

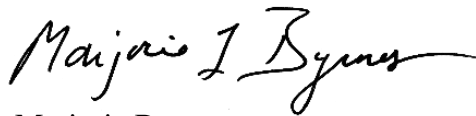

Chris Jacobs
Member of Congress

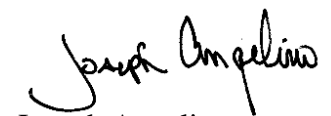

Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



John Salka
121st Assembly District



Christopher Friend
124th Assembly District


Matthew Simpson
114th Assembly District


Marjorie Byrnes
133rd Assembly District


Joseph Angelino
122nd Assembly District


John Lemondes
126th Assembly District


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2nd Assembly district



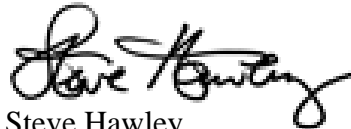
Michael Norris
114th Assembly District



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139th Assembly District



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